

# 2017 Virginia Tax Amnesty Program Media Q&A



## **Why are you doing a tax amnesty?**

The 2017 General Assembly enacted legislation establishing a Tax Amnesty program administered by the Virginia Department of Taxation. The program provides delinquent taxpayers with a fresh start, while at the same time increasing the collection of certain taxes owed to the Commonwealth.

## **How successful were prior amnesty programs?**

The first tax amnesty program in 1990 returned \$32 million to the Commonwealth. In 2003, the second tax amnesty program yielded \$90 million. The most recent tax amnesty program took place in 2009 and returned \$103 million to the Commonwealth.

## **How many taxpayers are eligible to participate?**

We sent more than 300,000 mailers to delinquent taxpayers; those are about evenly split between individuals and businesses. However, most who owe back taxes are eligible.

## **How much do you expect to collect?**

The 2017 Appropriations Act assumes general fund collections of \$89.5 million.

## **Are all tax types included?**

Yes. A complete list of the eligible tax periods by tax type is available on our [website](http://www.vatax.gov).

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## **How are you planning to reach taxpayers?**

We are combining a general awareness campaign with targeted communications to known eligible taxpayers. We will use traditional media (like billboards, bus wraps, and radio ads) as well as digital media (like online ads, outbound voicemails, and texts) to get the word out about amnesty to all who may owe delinquent taxes.

## **How can taxpayers get help?**

Taxpayers can go to [www.vatax.gov](http://www.vatax.gov) or call 1.877.PAY.VTAX for more information and to get started.

## **Statements on the 2017 Virginia Tax Amnesty Program:**

### **Governor Terry McAuliffe:**

*"This program provides delinquent taxpayers with a great opportunity to pay off their outstanding tax bills easily at a reduced cost, while at the same time increasing the collection of certain revenues that are owed to the Commonwealth and fund critical services. I urge Virginians who have delinquent tax bills to take advantage of this opportunity to clear their debt and contribute to the essential services that make Virginia a great place to live."*

### **Tax Commissioner Craig Burns:**

*"Many taxpayers who are eligible for amnesty will receive a notice through the mail. However, anyone who owes back taxes may be eligible and should contact us."*